



MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Regular Meeting
September 21, 2010

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Reg Dexter, District V, Council Chairman
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV, Vice Chairman
Mr. Wayne McCall, District II, Chairman Pro Tem
Mr. Paul Corbeil, District I
Mr. Mario Suarez, District III

Oconee County Council met on Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members, Thomas L. Martin County Attorney, County Administrator Scott Moulder and Clerk to Council, Elizabeth G. Hulse present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio, Ray Chandler – Anderson Independent, Ashton Hester – Keowee Courier & Carlos Galarza - Daily Journal.

Call to Order: Mr. Dexter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment Session [related to specific agenda items]:

Mr. Larry Linsin addressed Council regarding Change Order #3 for the Airport voicing concerns that the taxpayers are footing the bill for additional unplanned work.

Extended Public Comment Session:

Homes for Our Troops / Waiver of Building Codes Fees / Mr. Tom Markovich

Mr. Markovich addressed Council regarding a program that he is closely linked to “Homes for Our Troops” [HOT]. The Home Builders of Oconee County have teamed with HOT to build the first house for a wounded vet in South Carolina here in Oconee County. He has solicited cooperation from private & public entities in order to build this home for no charge to the vet. Mr. Markovich asked Council to consider waiving the building code fees for this soldier; and after further discussion, any 100% disabled veteran who wishes to build a home in Oconee County. Discussion followed.

Council approved in concept and directed the County Administrator to work with Mr. Markovich to identify the best way to proceed.

Public Comment Session [related to non-agenda items]:

Mr. Steve Moore addressed Council voicing concerns about millage and property assessments.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding his opposition to Ordinance 2010-28 if it allows citizens to close a road and restrict public access to any of our lakes, rivers, etc.

County Council Response to Public Comment:

Mr. Thrift addressed concerns about Ordinance 2010-28 stating that the intent of the ordinance is to set rules to close a road and to remove the burden of road maintenance from the taxpayers. In addition, he stated that if the road provides public access that it would not be recommended for closure by Council.

Mr. Corbeil addressed concerns regarding the change order for the airport stating that Council understands the citizens frustration but all due diligence is being done and Council is working closely with the attorney to protect the county in this matter.

Meeting Recess:

Mr. Dexter recessed the meeting to 6:33 p.m.

Meeting Reconvene:

Mr. Dexter reconvened the meeting to 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. McCall led the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

Minutes:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 that the minutes from the September 7, 2010 regular meeting be adopted as printed.

Motion to Amend Agenda:

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thrift, approved 4 – 0 that this meeting's agenda be amended to [1] remove the Executive Session scheduled for the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel matter, and [2] to add an Executive Session prior to Discussion & Possible Action Items.

Mr. Corbeil made a motion, seconded by Mr Thrift, approved 4 – 0 to add an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual and litigation matter.

Presentation by Outside Organizations:

Our Daily Rest / Mr. Steve Smith, Executive Director

Mr. Smith addressed Council utilizing a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] outlining the groups activities and accomplishments on their one year anniversary of operation. Council thanked Mr. Smith for the contribution Our Daily Rest is making to the community.

Public Hearings regarding the Following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2010-17 “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY, AS TO THE AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN UNIFIED ROAD STANDARDS FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY, THE AMENDMENT OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDING FOR SUCH INSPECTIONS, AND THE REVISION OF ROAD SIGNAGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDING FOR SUCH SIGNAGE AND THE REVISION OF ENCROACHMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDING FOR SUCH ENCROACHMENTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

Mr. Dexter opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Tom Markovich addressed concerns that he had regarding this ordinance. Mr. Markovich had provided a list of questions to the County attorney prior to the meeting [copy filed with these minutes]. Mr. Martin, County Attorney addressed the issues addressed to Mr. Markovich’s satisfaction.

Mr. Dexter opened the floor and asked if anyone else present wished to speak. No citizens came forward to address Council.

Mr. Dexter asked for any written comments for inclusion in the record. No written comments were submitted.

Mr. Dexter closed the Public Hearing.

Consideration of the Following Resolutions:

Resolution R2010-13

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 4 – 0 to approve **Resolution R2010-13** “A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCONEE COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF WEST UNION FOR THE PROVISION OF A COUNTY MAGISTRATE TO ACT AS MUNICIPAL JUDGE FOR THE TOWN OF WEST UNION; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” on first and final reading.

Consideration of the Following Ordinances:

Ordinance 2010-17

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2010-17** “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES IN CERTAIN LIMITED REGARDS AND PARTICULARS, ONLY, AS TO THE AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN UNIFIED ROAD STANDARDS FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF OCONEE COUNTY, THE AMENDMENT OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDING FOR SUCH INSPECTIONS, AND THE REVISION OF ROAD SIGNAGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDING FOR SUCH SIGNAGE AND THE REVISION OF ENCROACHMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FUNDING FOR SUCH ENCROACHMENTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” on third and final reading.

Ordinance 2010-28

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve **Ordinance 2010-28** “AN ORDINANCE CREATING A STANDARD SET OF PROCEDURES AND POLICIES FOR THE CONSENT OF OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL TO THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT AND CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROADS IN OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA; REQUIRING PHYSICAL NOTICE THEREOF; SETTING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ABANDONMENT AND CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROADS IN OCONEE COUNTY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO” on first reading.

Executive Session:

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall, approved 5 – 0 to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of a contractual and litigation matter.

Council entered into Executive Session at 7:43 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:27 p.m.

Mr. Dexter stated that no actions were taken in Executive Session.

No action was taken on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Discussion & Possible Action Items:

Oconee County Proposed Millage for 2010-2011 / Mr. Ken Nix, Auditor

Mr. Ken Nix, County Auditor, provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] outlining property assessment and his recommended millage for fiscal year 2010-2011. Discussion followed.

Mr. McCall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve the recommended millage for fiscal year 2010-2011 as presented by the County Auditor.

Change Order # 3 / PO # 46712/Bid 08-32 / not to exceed \$358,850 / Runway Extension

Mr. Moulder and Mr. Ned Nicholson, McNair Attorneys, addressed Council providing a brief history and outlining the need for this change order. Discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Corbeil, approved 5 – 0 to approve Change Order #3, PO #46712 in the not to exceed amount of \$358,850.00 to Plateau Excavation of Austell, GA, for the Runway 25 and Parallel Taxiway Extension at the Oconee County Airport.

Board & Commission Appointments:

None scheduled for this meeting.

Commission & Board Reports to Council:

Scenic Highway Committee

The Scenic Highway Committee provided a written report [copy filed with these minutes] for review by Council. In addition, Mr. Eddie Martin, Chairman, submitted a written statement [copy filed with these minutes] addressing concerns about the Highway 11 scenic highway continued designation.

Council Committee Reports:

None scheduled for this meeting.

Administrator's Report:

Oconee County Detention Center Update

Mr. Moulder stated that he was meeting with Mr. Lee, Carter Goble Lee, in the upcoming week and that a formal report to council would be forthcoming. Mr. Moulder requested that Council schedule a workshop meeting to discuss the report and take action. Dates were discussed. The Clerk to Council will advertise the meeting once a date/time is set.

Staff Change in Administrator's Office

Ms. Amanda Brock has been reassigned from the Finance Department to serve as his Senior Executive Assistant. He stated that Ms. Brock will also assume some responsibilities for Public Information and Media Communication.

Ms. Brock will be permanently replacing Ms. Sharon Adams who was temporarily assigned to the office many months ago. Mr. Moulder thanked Ms. Adams for her time and efforts filling in as the Administrator's Executive Assistant. He asked that she be recognized for assuming those additional responsibilities and providing a much needed service during the transition period.

Old Business:

None at this meeting.

New Business:

Francis Marion & Sumter Resource Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Thrift noted that he serves on the Francis Marion & Sumter Resource Advisory Committee and that the committee is seeking application for projects that enhance forest ecosystems or restore and improve land health and water quality in the forest. Title II funds should be available in April 2011. Project proposal Applications are posted on the Francis Marion Sumter Nation Forests website. Mr. Thrift also asked the Clerk to Council to post this information to the Council website [copy also filed with these minutes] for all interested parties to read more.

Executive Session:

Cancelled – see action taken earlier in the meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Thrift made a motion at 9:35 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council